

TRIBUTE TO U.S. MARINES ON IWO  
JIMA

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2006*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of the first United States Marines to scale the summit of Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima.

Iwo Jima is a small rocky island only two miles wide and four miles long located approximately 650 miles south of Tokyo, Japan. It is a volcanic island, much like the islands of my home state of Hawaii. A place where cool Pacific breezes rush over soft beaches and birds sing songs learned during lonely flights across the wide ocean.

For a brief moment in time, the Island of Iwo Jima became the central battleground between the Empire of Japan and the Allied Forces during those terrible and dark days of World War II. The Allied Forces were determined to take the island in preparation for a final attack on Japan, and the Japanese were unbendable in their desire to defend Iwo Jima and to prevent the Allies from moving any closer to the main islands of Japan.

On February 19, 1945, approximately 70,000 American and other Allied Forces and 22,000 Japanese soldiers locked themselves in a horrific battle that would begin the final phase of the War in the Pacific. Entrenched in a series of interlocking caves, blockhouses, and pillboxes, the Japanese fought with determination to defend their island. Debarking off a naval armada of more than 450 ships, the Allies, led by the United States, brought the full weight of their highly trained and battle-tested troops to bear with the determined goal of taking the rocky island no matter what the cost. The battle for Iwo Jima would be one of the fiercest conflicts of the Second World War. Almost 7,000 Americans were killed in action. More than 20,000 Americans were wounded. Of the 22,000 Japanese defenders, only 1,083 survived.

On February 23, 1945, the fifth day of the battle, Marines from the 5th Division were ordered to ascend the slopes of Mt. Suribachi, the main peak controlling the island. Four Marine squads worked their way up the mountain and, at 10:30 a.m., the officer in charge, 1st Lieutenant Harold G. Schrier, along with the platoon leader, Sergeant Ernest Thomas, and Sergeant Henry Hansen, Corporal Charles W. Lindberg, Radioman, Private First Class Raymond E. Jacobs, Private James R. Michels, Private Philip L. Ward, and Corpsman, PhMac John H. Bradley, raised the American flag over Mt. Suribachi.

Today, when our Nation remembers the brave U.S. Marines of Iwo Jima, we often visualize the commanding bronze statue resting on the banks of the Potomac River. Most Americans do not realize that this memorial actually depicts the second, much larger flag that was raised on Mt. Suribachi, signaling the courage and determination of the United States to all on Iwo Jima and at sea.

In my home state of Hawaii, the Iwo Jima United States Memorial Association is working to raise the funds necessary to build a memorial to recognize the American Marines who raised the first American flag on Mt. Suribachi. I applaud their efforts, and hope that every cit-

izen across the nation will support those groups dedicated to recognizing the courage of American Marines everywhere.

IN HONOR OF NORMAN C. SPECTOR

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2006*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Norman C. Spector of Stoughton, MA for his outstanding contributions to the New England Sinai Hospital. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Mr. Spector began his career as a law clerk in the firm of Burns & Levinson. Throughout the years, he has risen in his profession to become co-chairman of the Business Law Section and the Finance Group.

Mr. Spector has acted both as a lawyer and board member during his involvement with the New England Sinai Hospital. Shortly after being hired by Burns & Levinson, he was assigned to work on the bylaws of the hospital. In 1981 he became a board member, and, in 1985, Mr. Spector represented New England Sinai Hospital in the landmark right-to-die case of Paul Brophy.

In 1993, Mr. Spector became Chairman of the Sinai Board of Directors. His intense interest in the welfare of the Hospital, his outstanding leadership abilities, as well as his keen understanding of the changing, challenging and sometimes chaotic issues surrounding healthcare led him to administer the Board successfully until 1999 when he stepped down as chairman.

When he is not practicing law or volunteering for health-care related non-profit organizations, Mr. Spector is a dedicated family man. Mr. Spector lives with his wife, Joyce, in Beverly, MA. He is the proud father of two daughters, Sharon and Joanne, and the equally enthused grandfather of one grandson.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to join with Mr. Spector's family, friends, and colleagues in honoring him for the important work he has done over the years for the New England Sinai Hospital. I urge my colleagues to congratulate him for a lifetime of distinguished achievement and to thank him for the important service he has provided to his community, his family and the New England Sinai Hospital.

**THE DARFUR PEACE AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT**

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will vote on the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, legislation that could play a major role in ending the ongoing genocide in Darfur.

For the past 2 years, the international community has remained paralyzed as Sudan's state-sponsored brutality has claimed the lives of an estimated 400,000 Darfurians, and as millions more Darfurians have been forced from their homes. Those who are displaced

struggle to feed their families; an estimated 3.5 million are starving. And as the displaced women of Darfur go about their daily lives, they live in fear of rape, beating, or murder at the hands of Janjaweed militias.

Despite worldwide efforts to provide financial and humanitarian support, the lack of cooperation from the Sudanese Government has rendered the African Union powerless to stop the violence and hunger. With each day that passes, the Sudanese Government continues to commit atrocities against their own people with impunity.

Though the situation in Darfur is dire, it is not too late to save hundreds of thousands of lives. This week, Congress can take a major step in ending the slaughter and brutality in Darfur by passing the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. This legislation would authorize the administration to revitalize the African Union peacekeeping effort by giving them the tools they need to put a stop to the chaos and violence in the region. The legislation would also take a critical step by authorizing the administration to impose political and economic consequences on the Government of Sudan for the crimes they are committing against the people of Darfur. For too long we have sat and watched as innocent men, women, and children have been killed, and forced from their homes. We cannot sit idly by any longer, we must act.

In calling attention to the crisis in Darfur, and through their support of the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, the Jewish community continues to lead the way in defending victims of the worst forms of social and political injustice around the world. As a cosponsor of the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, I will proudly stand with the Jewish community when I vote for this important legislation.

The Jewish community's leadership on this issue has brought it national and international attention. And as we approach the Jewish holiday of Pesach—Passover—and the celebration of the Jewish Exodus from Egypt and redemption from slavery, the Jewish community should be proud that it has given a voice to an afflicted group of men and women in a far away place at a time when few others have taken notice.

**NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK**

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2006*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Public Health Week. I want to thank the American Public Health Association and its 200 plus partner organizers and sponsors, who have organized events around the Nation to raise awareness of the need to improve public health. Since 1995, National, State and local public health professionals highlight an important public health issue every April, to raise awareness about leading health problems affecting our nation. This year, the theme of National Public Health Week focuses on what is called the "built environment," and building healthy communities to protect and enhance our children's life.

The built environment potentially creates enhancements or challenges for our kids. The built environment is any infrastructure with

which children come in contact on a daily basis including homes, schools, parks, roads, walkways and businesses. Enhancements to the built environment include access to primary health care services, regular physical activity, safe places to play and safe routes to walk or bike to school, smoke-free communities and homes, and toxin-free schools. Health challenges include decreased access to medical and preventive health services, quality of and access to schools and housing, economic opportunities, social capital, air and water quality and opportunities for physical activity.

As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, CAPAC, I am particularly concerned about how the built environment affects communities of color, native communities, and linguistically isolated communities. Members of these communities are more likely to live, work, and play in environments which have detrimental health effects, often vastly disproportionate to their percentage of the population. For example, asthma is one of the major causes of illness and disability in the U.S. Although asthma is only slightly more prevalent among minority children than among whites, it accounts for three times the number of deaths. Low socioeconomic status, exposure to urban environmental contaminants, and lack of access to medical care contribute to the increase of deaths in minority communities. African Americans living in low-income neighborhoods have particularly high rates of asthma, as do Native Hawaiians living in Hawaii.

America must invest more resources and be more creative in order to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities. We need to provide access to health care for the 45 million uninsured, more than half of whom are racial and ethnic minorities; we need to provide linguistically and culturally competent services; we need to increase rather than decrease funding for Title VII health professions training programs, especially those that will train minority providers; and we need to stop gutting the health care safety net.

Neighborhoods and communities across the U.S. are segregated by race and socioeconomic status, which exacerbates the underlying social and economic inequities that perpetuate health inequities. Without significant investment in the built environment for minority children in underserved communities, these health inequities will continue.

I am pleased to see that the American Public Health Association—the leading public health organization in the U.S.—has been able to disseminate the message about the interconnectedness between health and the built environment, and hope that this reality is integrated into the public health debate. I look forward to working with all those involved with National Public Health Week to ensure policies to promote children's health.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the

tragic anniversary of his assassination. In the 38 years since his untimely death, Dr. King and his work for civil rights has remained an inspiration to those committed to liberty and freedom throughout the world.

While today marks a sad day in American history, it is my hope that as a nation, we will continue to reflect on the actions and accomplishments of Dr. King. It is my hope that we will celebrate his life and learn from his legacy.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Morehouse College in 1948, a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1951, and a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Boston University. Throughout his education, Dr. King was involved in civil rights, and in 1955, he led the historic Montgomery Bus Boycott that began after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man. After the Montgomery Bus Boycott launched a national civil rights campaign, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. helped form the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1957. Dr. King led the SCLC as it promoted, organized, and conducted non-violent protests in the name of fairness and equality.

The nonviolent manner in which Dr. King fought for fundamental freedoms such as the right to vote and desegregation has had a lasting impact on this country. Perhaps the greatest example of Dr. King's leadership and impact on this country is his "I Have a Dream" speech, which he gave in front of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington in 1963, where he talked about his four children living in a nation where they would not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

In 1968 Dr. King set out for Memphis to support a sanitation strike that called for higher wages and better treatment. Days later, on April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated.

After his death, the country mourned the loss of our greatest modern-day civil rights pioneer. To this day, Dr. King's work, message, and legacy remain imprinted on the minds of those who carry on his noble cause.

Mr. Speaker, today may be the anniversary of the death of one of our Nation's greatest citizens, but I also hope it is day on which we can reflect on the positive changes that were set in motion due to Dr. King's work. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. raised the consciousness of America; he made our nation re-examine our commitment to freedom and liberty, and he did so with a message of peace and non-violence. I speak for all Americans today as we honor a great man.

#### TRIBUTE TO MIAMI NORLAND HIGH SCHOOL VIKINGS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM: STATE CHAMPIONS

#### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2006*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Miami Norland Vikings, the 2006 6-A High School Boys Basketball Champions of Florida.

On March 4, 2006 this team proved its mettle, resilience and fighting spirit by upending

the state's NO.1-Ranked team, Winter Park High School, in a thrilling 55-48 championship game. Several lead changes marked the game, which may well be remembered as one of the most exciting contests ever in a 6-A high school basketball competition.

Winning a State Championship in a state as large as Florida is a tremendous achievement, and I commend Miami Norland's great Principal, Ms. Gale Cunningham, Assistant Principal for Athletics Stephon Cone, Athletic Director Ira Fluitt, Athletic Trainer Pete Martz and Business Manager Carlos Ochoa for the fine work they've done. Miami Norland is a special school; this first-ever state basketball championship has made it even more so.

I also want to congratulate the school's basketball coach, Mr. Lawton Williams III. His work ethic, discipline and dedication to hard work and fair play paved the way for accomplishment both in the classroom and on the court.

Known for his no-nonsense approach and forthright guidance and counseling, Coach Williams has surrounded himself with an excellent staff composed of assistant coaches Cleveland Roberts III, Victor Vassell, Charles Harris III, Chris Jarrett and scorer Gail Thomas. Their knowledge, experience and sensitivity to the many and varied nuances of sporting activities befitting the school's champion student-athletes: Albert Abrahams, Anthony Berkley, Darius Bodden, Amir Celestine, Timothy Cornelius, Johnny Fernandez, Andre Jackson, Jerry Jones, Calvin Joy, Zachery Peacock, Denzel Rankin, Robert Rowe, Nicholas Taylor and Andre Woods.

The coaching staff's approach to educating and motivating the members of Florida's 6-A Championship Team emphasized utmost personal responsibility toward the achievement of a common goal. Their dedication to teamwork and group achievement above individual glory or personal records has gained the respect and admiration of the parents and guardians of Miami Norland's student population.

Miami Norland's achievement this year demonstrates once again that athletic achievement and academic excellence are always within reach of those willing to dare the impossible through hard work and discipline.

I join our entire community in congratulating the Vikings for their achievement, as well as honoring the hard work and sacrifices of the parents, teachers, administrators, students and supporters that comprise the soul and spirit of the school family.

#### EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 16, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes: